

## CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1        1. A water cooler comprising:
  - 2            (a) a housing;
  - 3            (b) a water source;
  - 4            (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said
  - 5        water source;
  - 6            (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least
  - 7        one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a
  - 8        floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor;
  - 9            (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet
  - 10      operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose
  - 11      and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an
  - 12      outlet hose;
  - 13            (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose; and
  - 14            (g) a control circuit with a sensor for activating
  - 15        said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.
- 1        2. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said inlet
- 2        hose includes a filter to prevent passage of particles of a
- 3        predetermined and larger size into said pump.
- 1        3. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drain
- 2        hole is composed of a plurality of small holes sized to
- 3        prevent passage of particles of a predetermined and larger
- 4        size through said drain hole.

1       4. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drip tray  
2 includes a strainer covering said open top.

1       5. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drip tray  
2 is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is long  
3 enough to permit said removal without disconnecting said  
4 inlet hose.

1       6. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid  
3 for drainage.

1       7. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said pump is  
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said  
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.

1       8. The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said pump is a  
2 peristaltic pump or a diaphragm pump.

1       9. A water cooler comprising:

2           (a) a housing;

3           (b) a water source;

4           (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said  
5 water source;

6           (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least  
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a  
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor;

9           (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet  
10 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose  
11 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an

12 outlet hose, said pump being a peristaltic pump or a  
13 diaphragm pump;

14 (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose;

15 (g) an in-line filter in said inlet hose to prevent  
16 passage of particles of a predetermined and larger size into  
17 said pump; and

18 (h) a control circuit with a sensor for activating  
19 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1 10. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said drip tray  
2 includes a strainer covering said open top.

1 11. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said drip tray  
2 is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is long  
3 enough to permit said removal without disconnecting said  
4 inlet hose.

1 12. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid  
3 for drainage.

1 13. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said pump is  
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said  
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.

1 14. A water cooler comprising:

2 (a) a housing;

3 (b) a water source;

4 (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said  
5 water source;

6       (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least  
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a  
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor, said  
9 drain hole being comprised of a plurality of small holes,  
10 said small holes being sized to prevent passage of particles  
11 of a predetermined and larger size through said drain hole;

12       (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet  
13 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose  
14 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an  
15 outlet hose, said pump being a peristaltic pump or a  
16 diaphragm pump;

17       (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose; and

18       (g) a control circuit with a sensor for activating  
19 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1       15. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said drip  
2 tray includes a strainer covering said open top.

1       16. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said drip  
2 tray is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is  
3 long enough to permit said removal without disconnecting  
4 said inlet hose.

1       17. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid  
3 for drainage.

1        18. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said pump is  
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said  
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.